Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017 | High 5°C/Low 4°C Cloudy

FORT LAUDERDALE

Ontario girl reunited with bear after airport shooting

metroNEWS

CITY BUDGET CUTS HIT WOMEN HARDEST

Daycare, largely female recreation staff feeling the squeeze

metroNEWS

Charlotte Genoa, with daughter Daisy Mae, is one of many Toronto mothers who depend on a childcare subsidy that's at risk.

EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Toronto the super rich

LUXURY MARKET

City has 95% gain in sales of $4M-plus homes

In Toronto, you need $4 million to buy a luxury home — but there's no shortage of buyers.

The city had an eye-popping 95 per cent gain in sales of $4-million-plus properties last year, a new report by experts reveals.

The average home here is in the $1 million range, and that price tag, perhaps unsurprisingly, had a 77 per cent increase in properties valued over $1 million last year.

But the gravity-defying success of the top-end of the luxury market, however, is a good indication of the strength of Toronto and the surrounding region, said Brad Henderson, CEO of Sotheby's International Realty Canada, which released its annual luxury home sales report on Wednesday.

"For the Greater Toronto Region to see a 95-per cent year-over-year increase in the number of homes sold (over $4 million) is certainly indicative of a very strong market at all levels," said Henderson. "There's no question that in Toronto, anything above $2.5 million to $3 million is definitely considered luxury — so at $4 million plus, it's definitely the luxury market."

Sales in the Toronto area rose 86 per cent over 2015 in the $2 million to $4 million residential range, according to Sotheby's year-end Top-Tier Real Estate Report.

It predicts that the Toronto area will continue its lead on luxury housing for a third year in 2017 as a ferocious appetite for property continues to outstrip the supply.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TORONTO MPs GET MORE POWER IN BIG CABINET SHUFFLE metroNEWS

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taxes included (WJV)

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Montego Bay, Jamaica
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All Inclusive
$1408
taxes included (WJV)

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Honolulu, Hawaii
Feb 28, 2017
5 Nights
Flight and Hotel
$1211
taxes included (WJV)

Grand Bahia Principe Coba ★★★★
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Feb 04, 2017
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All Inclusive
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taxes included (WJV)

Memories Varadero Beach Resort ★★★Plus
Varadero, Cuba
Jan 30, 31, 2017
7 Nights - All Inclusive
*Sunrise or Sunset Garden View Balcony
$875
taxes included (SWG)

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Varadero, Cuba
Jan 31, 2017
5 Nights
All Inclusive
$925
taxes included (SWG)

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Feb 24, 2017
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All Inclusive
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taxes included (SWG)

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Dylann Roof sentenced to death for killing nine people in Charleston, South Carolina. **World**

‘These are preventable deaths’

TORONTO’S DEADLY STREETS

Number of red light cameras doubled to protect seniors

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

The city is doubling the number of red light cameras at intersections and establishing 12 “senior safety zones” in a bid to save the lives of elderly pedestrians.

Despite accounting for only 14 per cent of Toronto’s population, elderly residents make up the majority of pedestrian fatalities in the city. Of the 44 pedestrians killed in Toronto last year, two-thirds were older than 65.

“These are preventable deaths,” said Mayor John Tory Tuesday, after announcing the first senior safety zone at the intersection of Dundas Street West and Bloor Street.

The intersection, previously identified as one of the deadliest in the city by Metro, has seen four pedestrian deaths and five serious injuries in the past six years. Many victims were seniors, said Coun. Jaye Robinson.

To make the intersection safer, the city has lowered speed limits in the area from 50 km/h to 40 km/h, put up signs urging drivers to slow down and increased pedestrian crossing times.

Similar changes will be made to 11 other intersections across the city in the first quarter of 2017, Robinson said. Many of the new senior zones are outside the downtown core, including the intersection of Eglinton and Midland, where two pedestrians were killed last year.

Transportation staff will also be installing new red light cameras at 76 intersections. The cameras have been shown to reduce injuries and deaths at intersections by as much as 60 per cent, Tory said.

The mayor was adamant the red light cameras have nothing to do with revenue.

“It’s not about the money,” Tory said. “Even if they produce zero dollars, I would still be happy with them.”

Rebranded to Vision Zero

Toronto’s road safety strategy has been rebranded as a “Vision Zero” plan, complete with a new logo and beefed up rhetoric from city officials.

Vision Zero is an approach to road safety that seeks to eliminate road deaths and injuries. It suggests safety is the responsibility of transportation designers.

Vision Zero logo. CONTRIBUTED

When Toronto’s road safety strategy was unveiled last June, Mayor John Tory claimed it would reduce deaths and injuries by 20 per cent.

“I once mistakenly cited any objective other than zero,” Tory said Tuesday. “Frankly, any number above zero is not acceptable.”

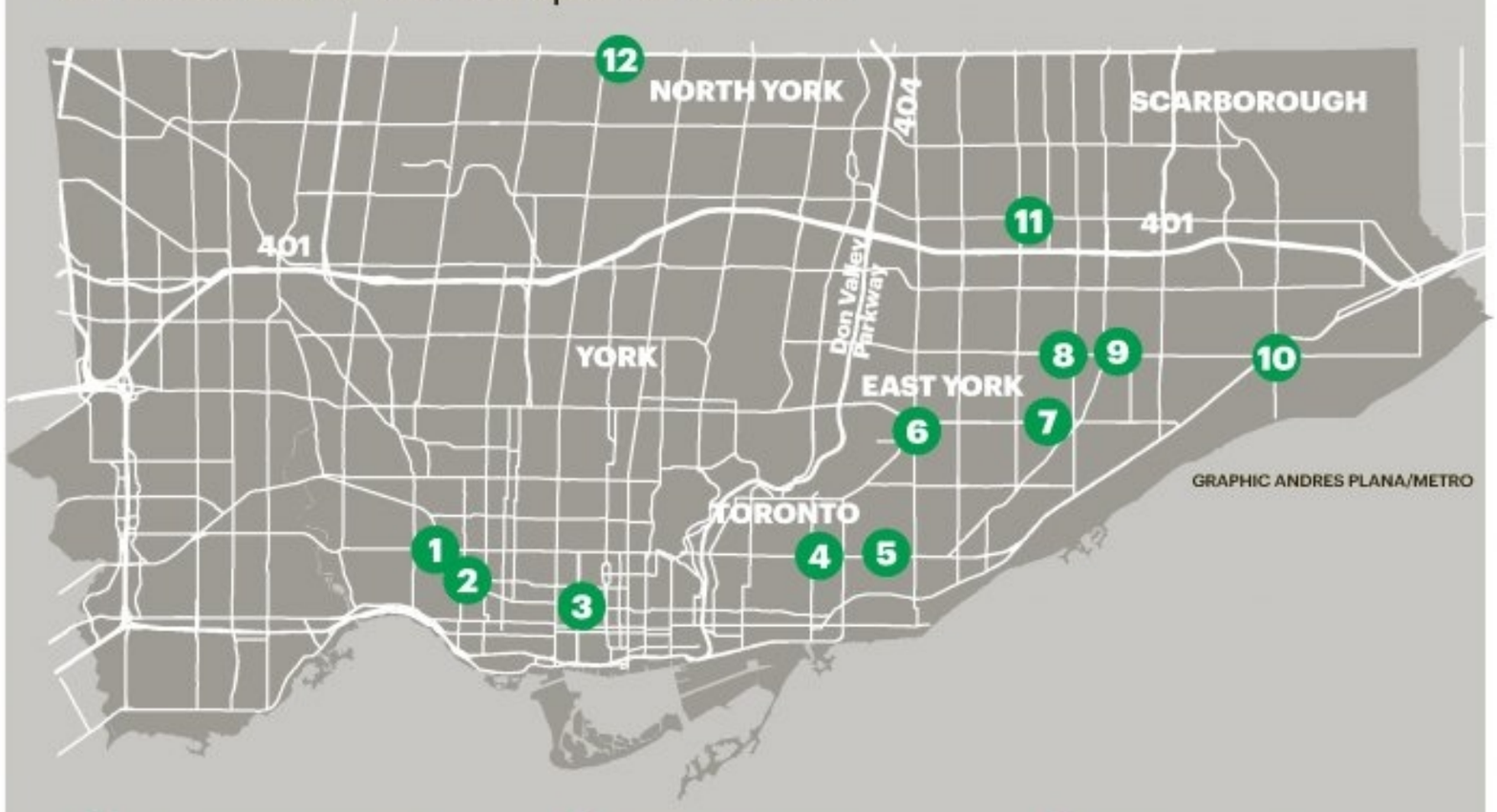
The Vision Zero logo is featured prominently on a new website that lets people map 11 years of pedestrian crash data.

You can visit the site at toronto.ca/VisionZeroTO.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

MAPPED | Toronto’s targeted intersections

The city has identified 12 intersections where seniors are most at risk in terms of road safety. Changes to those intersections, including lower speed limits, improved signage and re-timed crosswalks, will be rolled out in the first quarter of 2017.



GRAPHIC ANDRES PLANA/METRO

1. Dundas Street West and Bloor Street
2. Dundas Street West and College Street
3. Spadina Avenue and Dundas Street West
4. Danforth Road and Coxwell Avenue
5. Danforth Road and Main Street
6. Victoria Park Avenue and O’Connor Drive
7. Eglinton Avenue and Midland Road
8. Brimley Road and Lawrence Avenue
9. McCowan Road and Lawrence Avenue
10. Morningside Avenue and Lawrence Avenue
11. Kennedy Road and Sheppard Avenue
12. Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue

FESTIVAL SECURITY

Councillor calls for safer music events

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto councillor is calling for electronic music events to step up safety for partiers.

Coun. Paula Fletcher will be asking the city’s Community Development and Recreation Committee next week to require that electronic music festivals have city paramedics on scene with the cost covered by promoters.

She hopes the requirement will prevent deaths like the suspected overdose of a woman during a December concert at Rebel nightclub.

“It’s such a tragic event,” she said. “One death is too many.”

It’s not “reasonable” to shut down such festivals, she said. But, “there should be very strong protocols in dealing with any emergency situations.”

Ink Entertainment, the owner of Rebel nightclub, wrote in an emailed statement they pay a private EMS company to be on site during events.

“All of our venues have a zero tolerance drug policy and also subjects every patron entering the venue to a full search,” a spokesperson added.

But, even if private paramedics are on site, they need to wait for city first responders to arrive and transport people to the emergency room, which can cost precious seconds in an overdose situation, Fletcher said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Toronto digest

CRIME
'Lunchtime bandit' caught
A suspect police dubbed the "lunchtime bandit" who allegedly has an appetite for cash has been arrested.

Police say the robberies occurred between Nov. 21 and Dec. 17 at banks located along Yonge Street between Lawrence Avenue and Davisville Avenue.

Four of the five robberies took place at around 12:30 p.m. said police.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SEX TRAFFICKING
Kidnap suspects surrender
Two suspects in an alleged kidnapping and sex trafficking attempt of their 25-year-old female victim in December have surrendered to police.

Police say they responded to a call of a kidnapping on Dec. 19 after four men forced their way into the victim's home in the Lake Shore Boulevard west and Bathurst Street area.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ROAD DEATHS
Compensation dispute
A drunk driver who killed three children and their grandfather in a collision north of Toronto in 2015 says he is liable for the crash, but argues the amount of damages sought by the family of his victims is too high.

The Neville-Lake family is seeking more than $25 million from Marco Muzzo and his family's drywall company, Marel Contractors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDUCATION
Union reaches agreement
The union representing Ontario's French teachers has become the second in three days to reach a tentative agreement with the province that would extend its current contract by two years.

The news Tuesday about a deal with AEFO follows a similar agreement struck Saturday between the government and CUPE.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Nicole Tavares sports one of her pink hats at Yarns Untangled in Kensington Market. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Now hat's a statement

POLITICS

Here's the right headgear for Washington protest march

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

When thousands of women march on Washington the day after Donald Trump's inauguration, many will be clad in bright pink hats, some of which will be made right here in Toronto.

The "Pussy Hat Project" started in the U.S. in late November as a way for women who can't make it to the massive rally to pitch in by sewing, knitting or crocheting vibrant pink hats for marchers to wear.

Rachelle Hansen was already looking for a winter knitting project when the hats popped up on her Facebook page.

"Even though we're Canadian I was very dismayed about the election results," she said. Toronto knitters can drop hats off at Yarns Untangled in Kensington Market.

Employee Nicole Tavares said she believes the hats have taken off because they're a simple, free way to make a visual statement.

"And it's cold in January," she added. Toronto's Tracy Erin Smith will be heading to Washington for the march with 55 other women. She'll be clad in a hat made by a master knitter friend.

"It's really a movement," she said, "there will be thousands and thousands of hats."

The Women's March on Washington is billed not as a protest against Trump, but as a way to stand up for the rights of women and minorities.

The hat project is a reference to Trump's comments, made on a leaked Access Hollywood tape, where he brags about grabbing women "by the pussy."

For Hansen, knitting her support is a way to not feel "overwhelmed" at the new U.S. administration and the hateful rhetoric swirling around it.

"People cannot be dismayed by this," she said. "Even if it seems like small thing, everybody has to do something."

REPORT

Toronto ranked 4th most reputable city

Toronto doesn't quite top the list when it comes to the world's "most reputable cities." But it's pretty close.

The Six comes in number four in the Reputation Institute's new 2016 City RepTrak report, coming in behind Sydney, Australia, Vienna, Austria and Zurich, Switzerland.

Montreal and Vancouver also made the list, coming in at seventh and ninth, respectively.

The list uses a global survey based on tens of thousands of consumer ratings from G8 countries. It ranks global cities based on levels of trust, esteem, admiration and respect.

Rounding out the top 10 are Stockholm, Edinburgh, Rome and Copenhagen.

In 2015, Vancouver was the only Canadian city to make the list.

MAY WARREN/METRO

Creativity on the Waterfront

Starting next month, eight public art installations focusing on producing less waste will be in The Beaches after being selected as winners of this year's Winter Stations Design Competition. GILBERT NGABO METRO

1. I See You Ashiyu: A Japanese hot spring made of wood. By Asuka Kono, Rachel Salmela/Toronto.
2. North: An art installation that suspends fir trees in midair. By studio PERCH/Montreal.
3. BuoyBuoyBuoy: The installation takes the form of a silhouette and allows people to walk inside through a labyrinth transparent, solid and reflective units. By Dionisios Vriniotis, Rob Shostak, Dakota Wares-Tani, and Julie Forand/Toronto
4. Flotsam and Jetsam: Description not available. By University of Waterloo/Waterloo, Canada.
5. The Illusory: Constructed of highly reflective linear panels, the installation challenges viewers to think about what is and what can be. By Humber College School of Media Studies & IT, School of Applied Technology/Toronto, Canada.
6. The Beacon: Wrapped in aged wood, the structure aims to capture the essence of traditional lighthouses. It's actually a repository where people are encouraged to drop non-perishable food and clothing to be donated to charity. By Joao Araujo Sousa and Joanna Correia Silva/ Porto, Portugal
7. Midwinter Fire: The installation is an immersive experience, reframing the narrative of local forests to show city dwellers the potential power of urban ecology. By Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto.
8. Collective Memory: Two translucent walls made of recycled glass bottles create a threshold between the shore and the city. It's meant to represent people's interconnected stories and experiences. By Mario García/Barcelona, Spain and Andrea Govi/Milan, Italy. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

DESIGN OFFSITE

Living large in small spaces

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Good design is about more than fancy chairs and minimalist typefaces.

The Toronto Design Offsite Festival began in 2011 as a showcase for art and design dedicated to making our city more beautiful, livable and inclusive. To celebrate Design Offsite's seventh year, Metro Creative Director Jason Logan has hand-picked a list of exhibitions to check out.

We'll profile one every day until the festival kicks off Jan. 16.

Compact Living

Did you know that the average condo size in Toronto has shrunk by more than 100 square feet in the past decade?

With living space at a premium in our increasingly dense city, this exhibition looks at how design can help people live large in small spaces.

Sponsored by houseware retailer Umbra, the show features prototype products ranging from tiny plant pots to folding chairs and space-conscious toothbrush holders and soap dishes. Attendees can cast their votes for the best compact design.

In the words of the organizers, "we need objects that make compact living exceptional."

The products will be on display every day of the festival from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Umbra Concept Store at 165 John St. Admission is free.

This folding corner table is an example of the space-saving products on display at the Design Offsite Festival's Compact Living exhibition. CONTRIBUTED

DRUNK DRIVING

Toronto Police won't name and shame

Toronto police will not be following in the footsteps of other forces by "naming and shaming" drunk drivers.

Winnipeg police recently released the names of 45 drivers charged with impaired driving over the holidays. Police in Durham also release names of drunk drivers, and York Region police considering doing the same.

In Toronto, police only identify impaired drivers in cases where they were involved in a collision causing serious injury or death. Police spokesman Mark Pugash said that policy will be maintained.

"I don't think it's appropriate for police to engage in naming and shaming," Pugash said, adding that police do not identify those charged with a host of other serious crimes.

"Treating impaired driving from things like sexual assault or child exploitation is just wrong," he said.

MADD Canada CEO Andrew Murie said his organization doesn't endorse or discourage the practice.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

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Moms squeezed in budget crunch

GENDER EQUITY

Daycare clients feel pain, as do largely female recreation staff

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Akio Maroon brought her daughter, Ella, to city hall Tuesday to draw attention to how Toronto's 2017 budget cuts affect women and children. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Akio Maroon put her daughter Ella on the waiting list for a daycare spot in Toronto as soon as she got pregnant.

Ella is now eight months old, and Maroon just got a call last week indicating that spot was available. But, it's not exactly hers to take.

"They called me to let me know that I'm 32nd on the list, and that they've called 31 people before me and they have priority," she said.

Advocates say struggles like Maroon's are all too common and will only get worse if city council moves ahead with looming budget cuts that disproportionately impact women.

As part of an effort to make up a shortfall of $91 million for next year, the city is proposing cuts of 2.6 per cent to all departments.

The cuts would mean an end to subsidies for school daycares, a change that will raise fees by about $350 a year and make it harder for families that are lucky enough to find spots.

"It seems like not a lot for a lot of people, but it really is," Maroon said.

Cuts to other city services will also have a "trickle-down effect" on women struggling to make ends meet, she added.

About 100 city recreation jobs will also be cut. Most of the positions are filled by women, said Laura Aversa, a recreation worker in Etobicoke. Plus, the city doesn't invest enough in affordable housing — something that hurts single mothers and women trying to escape domestic abuse, advocates said.

MAYOR'S TAKE

Staff told to save money without service cuts

In response to questions about the budget and gender equity, a spokesperson for Mayor John Tory said all city divisions were told to "take a hard look" at their books to find ways save money without cutting services.

Coun. Kristyn Wong-Tam said the cuts run counter to a decision by city council to impose a "gender-equity lens" on 2017 budget deliberations.

She's calling on more people to share their experiences and the impact cuts could have in advance of council's final budget vote next month.

Jane Mercer, a child-care advocate, said what's decided could have a long-lasting impact.

"Is this really the city we want to build?" she asked.

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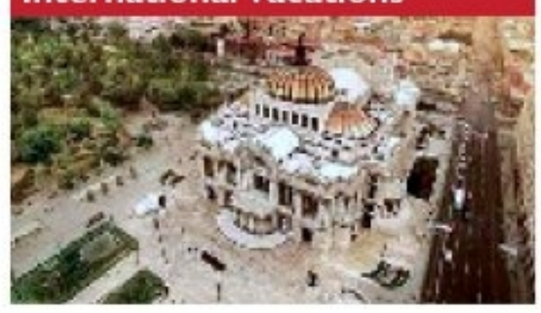
International Vacations



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‘The future should be ours’

POLITICS

Obama gives tearful farewell address as era of Trump looms

Conceding disappointments during his presidency yet offering vigorous encouragement for the nation’s future, U.S. President Barack Obama issued an emotional defence Tuesday night of his vision to Americans facing a moment of anxiety and a dramatic change in leadership.

Obama’s valedictory speech in his hometown of Chicago was a public meditation on the trials and triumphs, promises kept and promises broken that made up his eight years in the White House. Arguing his faith in America had been confirmed, Obama said he ends his tenure inspired by America’s “boundless capacity” for reinvention, and he declared: “The future should be ours.”

His delivery was forceful for most of his speech, but by the end he was wiping away tears as the crowd embraced him one last time.

President Barack Obama at McCormick Place in Chicago on Tuesday, ready to give his presidential farewell address. NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reflecting on the corrosive recent political campaign, he said, “That potential will be realized only if our democracy works. Only if our politics reflects the decency of our people. Only if all of us, regardless of our party affiliation or particular interest, help restore the sense of common purpose that we so badly need right now.”

He made no mention of Republican Donald Trump, who will replace him in just 10 days. But when he noted the imminence of that change and the crowd began booing, he responded, “No, no, no, no, no.” One of the nation’s great strengths, he said, “is the peaceful transfer of power from one president to the next.”

Earlier, as the crowd of thousands chanted, “Four more years,” he simply smiled and said, “I can’t do that.”

Soon Obama and his family will exit the national stage, to be replaced by Trump, a man Obama had stridently argued poses a dire threat to the nation’s future. His near-apocalyptic warnings throughout the campaign have cast a continuing shadow over his post-election efforts to reassure Americans anxious about the future. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ CLAIMS DENIED

Social media lit up Tuesday evening with unverified allegations of a sexual nature regarding Donald Trump, including a claim the Russian government possessed a recording. Trump denied the rumours, tweeting they were “FAKE NEWS — A TOTAL POLITICAL WITCH HUNT!” METRO

Donald Trump

CHARLESTON

Death penalty for Roof

Dylann Roof was sentenced to death Tuesday for fatally shooting nine black church members during a Bible study session in Charleston, S.C., becoming the first person ordered executed for a federal hate crime.

Dylann Roof ASSOCIATED PRESS

A jury deliberated for about three hours before returning with the decision, capping a trial in which the 22-year-old avowed white supremacist did not fight for his life or show any remorse. He served as his own attorney during sentencing and never asked for forgiveness or mercy or explained the massacre.

Hours earlier, Roof threw away one last chance to plead for his life, telling jurors: “I still feel like I had to do it.”

“I have the right to ask you to give me a life sentence,” he said. “But I’m not sure what good it would do anyway.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cabinet shuffle: Who’s in and out

Justin Trudeau promoted many up-and-coming MPs on Tuesday as part of a shakeup aimed in part at preparing for a Donald Trump presidency

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign Affairs

CHRYSTIA FREELAND leaves the trade portfolio to replace veteran Liberal MP **STEPHANE DION**, who announced Tuesday that he plans to leave active politics. Freeland is a cabinet superstar, credited with navigating through the Canada-European Union free trade agreement — potentially valuable experience for dealing with the incoming Trump administration.

PM Justin Trudeau holds a press conference as he’s joined by his newly sworn-in ministers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Immigration

AHMED HUSSEN, a Somali-born rookie MP in Toronto, is taking over the immigration portfolio from **JOHN MCCALLUM**, who is leaving politics to become ambassador to China.

Labour

PATTY HAJDU, who shone as status of women minister, is taking over the labour portfolio from **MARYANN MIHYCHUK**, who is being dumped from cabinet altogether.

Democratic Reform

KARINA GOULD of Burlington, Ont., takes Democratic Institutions from Maryam Monsef. Meanwhile, Monsef — widely criticized for her handling of Trudeau’s promise to reform Canada’s voting system — is moving to replace Hajdu at Status of Women.

International Trade

FRANCOIS-PHILIPPE CHAMPAGNE, a Quebec MP, takes on the international trade portfolio following the promotion of Chrystia Freeland.

Courtney Gelinas holds tight to her stuffed bear Rufus. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE

Canadian 10-year-old gets her teddy bear back

Yards from where workers finished the cleanup from the Fort Lauderdale airport shooting, a girl was reunited Tuesday with the teddy bear she left behind while fleeing.

Courtney Gelinas, 10, smiled as Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport spokesman Greg Meyer opened the trunk of his SUV to reveal Rufus, the teddy bear the Windsor, Ont., fifth grader had received from her dying grandfather a decade ago. When Meyer handed her Rufus, she held the bear tight.

Courtney was with her parents and siblings and about to board a plane home when officials say Esteban Santiago fatally shot five people one floor below them Friday. Rufus, a brown bear dressed in a red devil costume, was left behind as the family fled onto the tarmac with hundreds of others. Her mother, Kim Lariviere, said Courtney has not slept well since.

“It is exciting and I am happy to have him back,” the bashful girl said as she pressed against her mother’s legs.

The airport has returned a “substantial” portion of the 25,000 stranded items left behind by fleeing passengers, including luggage, cellphones, baby strollers and “lots of Hello Kitty backpacks,” Meyer said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, January 11, 2017

JESSICA ALLEN ON THE HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN GLOBES

Streep may have undermined herself by making her principled stand at an event whose sponsoring organization is not exactly a paragon of principle.

Almost everyone was fair game for Twitter-borne Snark during the Golden Globes on Sunday: Al Roker, who called Jessica Biel "Jessica Alba"; Jenna Bush, who mashed together the Hidden Figures and Fences to create "Hidden Fences"; and Tom Hiddleston, whose out-of-touch acceptance speech felt longer than his relationship with Taylor Swift.

But Meryl Streep, who delivered a rousing six-minute oration while accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award, was off limits — save, of course, for the nameless object of her vitriol.

Even now, to criticize Streep would be to commit media hara-kiri. So here goes.

It wasn't her message, that those in power ought to refrain from bullying. It wasn't her call to support the press. It wasn't even when she referred to the room as representing the "most vilified segments in American society right now," although that was a bit rich.

It was that Streep made a principled stand at an event whose sponsoring organization — a group of 90 shadowy, ostensibly foreign reporters who are required to have permanent residences in Southern California — is not exactly a paragon of principle.

I'm talking about the Hollywood Foreign Press. Like nearly every person who's ever accepted a Golden Globe, Streep thanked the association, which according to a 2010 piece by the Toronto Star's Peter Howell, was created in 1943 "by eight foreign journalists living in Hollywood, who were frustrated by their lack of access to top stars."

"They reasoned," Howell wrote, "that creating their own awards might turn things around, and that thinking paid off."

So well, in fact, that today studio publicists extend to HFPA members unfettered access to A-listers, usually in exotic locations, over dinner and drinks, while other critics and journalists are shut out.

Studio publicists extend to HFPA members unfettered access to A-listers while other critics and journalists are shut out.

Every year, the media writes scathingly of the association. Twenty-one years ago, the Washington Post reported that most members weren't full-time journalists but rather "part-time freelancers for small publications in places like Lithuania and Bangladesh, and include a college professor, a retired engineer, a man who runs an 'auto referral service,' and another who until recently sold appliances in Burbank."

Even bold-faced industry names speak out. "In 1993, director Rob Reiner complained to the New York Times about HFPA 'press conferences' that were nothing more than glorified photo-ops for its members," Richard Roeper reported in his 2005 book, Schlock Value: Hollywood at Its Worst.

More recently, in December, the Hollywood Reporter noted that HFPA asked members — there are four Canadians on the list, whose bylines I didn't recognize and I struggled to find any meaningful and recent work of theirs online — to return expensive bottles of Tom Ford-branded perfumes they were sent promoting the designer-turned-director's film Nocturnal Animals. One HFPA member refused a miniature wedding cake crowned with an interracial couple that Focus sent him to promote the film Loving. "I can't come home from a long day at the Four Seasons (attending press junkets and screenings) to find decaying food on my doorstep," he told THR. "I can't even tell you how many bottles of cheap wine I've gotten this year. The alcohol tends to come from the foreign films, which send stuff from their country."

Meryl Streep speaks while accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So why, asked Roeper, are the Golden Globes "taken so seriously when the voting is done by approximately ninety cliquish, junketeering entertainment reporters who have to produce only a handful of articles per year in order to remain in good standing with the HFPA?" Because as the entertainment press constantly tells us that the Globes "are like the primaries to the Oscars' general election, the Globes' stock just keeps on rising."

To be clear, it's not that the HFPA always gets it wrong. A few times over the last decade, they've awarded films with more staying power than the Academy did — think The Social Network vs. King's Speech, for example, or The Descendants vs. The Artist. But they're not even a particularly good indicator of what the Academy will choose. The Producers Guild Awards and the Critics Choice Awards are much better predictors, both having chosen the same best-picture winner as the Academy eight times over the last 10 years.

So why doesn't the Academy, some 6,000 members strong, take the bull by the horns? Last year, Oscar voting wrapped up two days before the Golden Globe winners were announced. This year they were extended until January 13 — five days after the Globes. I don't know. And I don't know why I care. No one else really does.

The only one who hinted at the hypocrisy on Sunday night was Viola Davis. When she accepted her award for best supporting actress in Fences, she dutifully thanked the Hollywood Foreign Press. And then she gave a hint at how the sausages are made: "This is my fifth nomination," Davis said. "I took all the pictures, went to the luncheon." She had to pause because the room erupted in knowing nods and chuckles.

"Been there, done that," they seemed to say.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Salute to the outgoing Obamas — the world is finally yours

I'm so excited to see the Obamas out of office. It'll be so gratifying to see them free.

They haven't exactly announced their next steps, but if you look closely the hints are there. Barack recently published his 13th paper in an academic journal. (Which "peers" exist to peer-review a study by the president of the United States?) If academia doesn't work for him, he also recently served as a groomsman in the wedding of a White House staffer. Imagine being able to hire Barack Obama to be your groomsman. The Secret Service knows how to throw stag parties.

Michelle, too, could go in a completely different direction. She can rock couture like a fashion model and can out-dance the best video vixen. However, she seems genuinely to believe in serving the public. In her last public speech, she promised young people that she'd be there for them for the rest of her life.

Some people want Michelle to enter into politics slash lead the Rebel Alliance against Darth Donald. That won't happen for two reasons. First, she doesn't want to. Second, America doesn't deserve her! My god, the names that she's been called over the last eight years — it's a miracle she hasn't given up her citizenship for a Kenyan one just to troll Fox News.

When Michelle first said, "I wake up every morning in a house that was built by slaves," I knew she was a better person than I because I would have burned it down the day after Inauguration day. Michelle and Barack woke up every day and managed not to cuss out America. Just for good manners and restraint alone, they were the best First Family in living memory.

(Recall, for example, that the Clinton's pets were in a constant feud?)

After eight years living within the bubble of the White House, it will be great to see Barack and Michelle let loose a little. Mind you, it will be only by a smidge: they are still Ivy League-educated lawyers who just wrapped up two terms playing nice with Republicans.

It could be (almost) anything and I would be happy for them. Michelle could take up a corporate gig for the oil industry and I'd root for her. Barack could decide, as all the greats unfortunately do, to record a rap album and I would give it a four-star review on iTunes.

Personally, I want them to have a reality TV show. Obamas! Unleashed! It'll be like Keeping up the Kardashians but with guest appearances from Kofi Annan and the Pope.

The only joy to their farewells is knowing that soon we'll be saying hello to the real Obamas.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

40%

Forty per cent of Canadian women aged 35 to 45 have sex at least once a week; 33 per cent get it on less than once a month, according to a Chatelaine survey.

Students at Ganja Yoga studio in Toronto smoke from a vaporizer before class begins. COURTESY ANDREW WILLIAMSON

Ganja: A gateway drug to fitness?

CULTURE

Pairing weed and yoga may seem like a trend, but it has ancient roots

Mila Petkovic
For Metro

Yoga teacher Joey Lundgreen, 35, smiles warmly at students. People chat casually before class with their neighbours, as they take turns breathing from the vaporizer. The atmosphere here is warm, open and connected.

With his lion-like mane and fully embodied voice, Lundgreen leads the class through a series of breathing exercises.

"When I started this practice, (it) was a very helpful effect for me because my body was kinda very stuck and not very strong or capable, and this has been true for many of our students too. For this reason it's sometimes called 'Ganja Yoga, the gateway drug to fitness,'" said Lundgreen.

The drug helps people relax and open up, says studio owner Lucelene Pancini, 43, who also teaches at the studio. The dynamic blond woman — a former Brazilian champion of judo and jiu-jitsu — opened Ganja Yoga on Bloor Street West in Toronto in 2011, and has seen the number of students grow steadily over the years.

"It's beautiful to work with ganja but I tell people you have to be responsible too. A lot of people come here who have never smoked, or done yoga before. Anxiety or paranoia can come, so I provide a safe space, so people can look and say 'Lu is here for me,'" said Pancini.

The studio uses an energizing strain of cannabis called Sativa at the beginning of the class and the more relaxing, meditative Indica before going into the final resting state, Savasana. For legal reasons, the studio asks participants to contribute their own cannabis for the practice but shares the vaporizer.

"Breathing becomes slower and deeper and muscles let go, so for sure you can go much further into the poses," said Pancini, who has been teaching yoga for 12 years. "In the mind, it's the same thing. Because you're in the present moment you stop to care what the person is doing beside you."

"I know a lot of people really like the smoking aspect. I feel like offering it helps to set the mood and harness an environment that's perhaps less pretentious than other studios can be. It's a mixed crowd but there's a real sense of community atmosphere here.

Yoga student Kat, 31

Ganja yoga studios have existed for some years now in major centres like Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. With the impending legalization of weed, and more and more dispensaries popping up, perhaps we will see an increase in such studios.

"One of the things we're doing is taking the stigma out of it a bit, and formally bringing it into practice of yoga. It makes for a beautiful, very friendly community environment compared to the often beautiful but somewhat sterile usual yoga studios," said Lundgreen.

Although the idea of pairing weed and yoga may seem cutting edge or à la mode, the practice goes back centuries.

Hindu deity Lord Shiva is said to have introduced cannabis to the people as a medicinal and spiritual aid, and the Vedas (sacred Hindu texts dating from 1200 BCE) record Indian holy men pairing yoga with cannabis preparations to connect to the divine.

Although the use of the plant did not become stigmatized in India until the 1960s when the government clamped down on it after an international conference, the use of bhang (a milkshake-like drink made with ground cannabis) is permitted in India during celebrations.

"I see it as a beautiful sacrament that can take you to another level — spiritually, physically — at least a little bit faster," said Pancini.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Moms baring all and bringing the truth

THE SHOW: Workin' Moms, Season 1, Episode 1
THE MOMENT: Baring it

First we see them from their (naked) shoulders up: three women sitting cross-legged in a Mommy-and-Me class circle, looking down at their own breasts and each other's.

"I feel like a proud show dog that didn't understand her days were numbered," says Frankie (Juno Rinaldi), a real estate agent. "Look at these things. It's like chicken skin."

Anne (Dani Kind), a psychiatrist, replies, "What are you talking about? Yours are OK." Kate (Catherine Reitman), a PR rep, says about hers, "They're not winning any blue ribbons. But they stuck in there. They might be a little deflated, but they're not throwing in the towel. I like them."

"I'm with you," Anne says. "I breastfed my first for five months. This is where they landed."

The camera pulls back. The three women are the only bare-chested ones in the group. They regard each other. "It could be worse, right?" Anne asks. "No, it could be better."

This is what we call an auspicious — and audacious — beginning. This is the series' opening scene and this is the message that Reitman (yes, daughter of Ivan), who also created and writes the show, is sending: We are going to bare all and we're going to tell the truth.

The Mommy-and-Me leader calls the circle a safe space, but Reitman and Co. know there's no such thing. Here we are in 2017 and still, very little in our society nurtures working moms (working humans). Mom-on-mom judgment still rankles.

This show exposes its characters' humanity and fights back with funny.

Workin' Moms airs Tuesdays on CBC.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

The message Catherine Reitman, left, (who also created and writes the show) is sending is: We are going to bare all and we're going to tell the truth. CONTRIBUTED

LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL

Hold the food; an Amarone is perfect all on its own

With so much emphasis put on pairing wine with food you might wonder if there are any wines that just taste good on their own.

While I've always been the camp that says "drink what you want when you want," the majority of the world's wine-makers, especially those in Europe, see their output as a piece of a puzzle that needs an accompanying eatable to complete the picture.

Though I've had them with a meal more than once, Italy's Amarone reds are nicknamed the "conversation wine" because their up-front personalities beg to be sipped and discussed all by their lonesome.

Made from partially-dried grapes, an Amarone is a dry, beast of a red typified by dark plummy fruit, a raisiny sweetness and low acidity (which makes it even less food-friendly).

Masi's 2011 Costasera Amarone della Valpolicella Classico ($42.95-$51.99) considers itself the benchmark of the style for a reason. Nicely balanced, and ticking all the classic Amarone boxes, it's built to ponder over a night of Netflix.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Pita or Naan?

These favourite traditional breads are far from similar when it comes to nutrition.

PICK THIS

Ozery Bakery Pitas (1 pita)

Calories 300
Fat 2g
Sodium 440mg

SKIP THIS

PC Traditional Naan (1 naan)

Calories 380
Fat 10g
Sodium 800mg

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent in sodium to more than 2 KFC Original Recipe Chicken Thighs.

Pita and naan breads are both favourites for dipping and for serving with Greek and Indian dishes, but both have a very different nutritional profile. Naan bread is more moist and tender than pita bread due to the added ghee (butter oil) and soybean or canola oil, which increases the total fat to 10g versus the 5g in the pita. The naan bread also has double the amount of sodium than the pita.

DRIVER THEORY

Inside job suspected in Kardashian Paris heist

Investigators focused Tuesday on a possible inside job in the theft of more than $10 million worth of jewelry from Kim Kardashian West, after taking her chauffeur that night and his brother into custody.

Three Paris officials confirmed the arrest of the driver and his brother among 17 people taken into custody. Michael Madar, 40, and Gary Madar, 27, worked for the same livery company, according to officials.

The officials would not elaborate on how they believe the theft was planned. Kardashian West's bodyguard was gone for the night, and the robbers forced their way into the private apartment where she was staying, tied her up and made off with the jewelry.

A spokeswoman for the reality star said she had no comment.

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metro WHEELS
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2017 Continental Supersports Bentley to reach top speed of 336 km/h

Let MDX do some of the work for you

REVIEW

2017 refresh comes with lane keep assist

Stephen Elmer
AutoGuide.com

So how do automakers cope with the speed of things when they are not ready with an all-new model? By wrapping new skin around an old frame and selling it as all-new. A prime example? Meet the 2017 Acura MDX.

For 2017, what's newest about the MDX is what you see. There are some packaging changes and some added content, but for the most part, the new styling is the biggest change here.

Some of the visual additions include the diamond pentagon grille, restyled jewel eye headlights and a fresh front bumper. I'll let you decide if it's good looking or not, but one thing seems certain: the exterior redesign was extensive, but the changes on the inside, not so much.

Moving inside the MDX, you would be hard pressed to name it as a new model, though that doesn't necessarily mean it's a bad cabin. First the positives. The Olive Ash Burl wood fund in our fully loaded model is gorgeous, as is the leather that wraps the comfortable seats. It feels especially nice on the steering wheel, offering a supple tactile feel.

To look at, the interior including its dual-screen centre stack is quite nice to look at, though the esthetics of the infotainment are let down by the operation. Thankfully Acura hasn't done away with the volume knob like Honda has in its products, but still, this infotainment system is not all that intuitive.

Slightly thicker sway bars on this SH-AWD model help in part to provide excellent body control in this 1,946-kilogram crossover. The MDX handles corners fairly flat, with handling that feels slightly tighter than its competitors. Some of that can also be chalked up to the SH-AWD system, which can send different amounts of torque to individual wheels to help the MDX rotate and stay nimble.

It's also nice and quiet in the cabin, while the V6 simultaneously manages a nice exhaust note; on the quieter side of aggressive, but enough to remind you that the V6 has a little bite to it.

Power doesn't come on until higher into the rev range, but the nine-speed transmission allows for power delivery to feel fairly strong on the low end.

For 2017, every single MDX model comes equipped with the AcuraWatch suite of safety features and driver-assist technologies, which includes collision-mitigating brakes, lane-departure warning, forward-collision warning, adaptive cruise control, road-departure mitigation and lane-keeping assist.

That last one is probably the most noticeable, as the lane keep assist in the MDX is quite aggressive and works quite well. To use it optimally, you keep your hands on the wheel but slightly loosen your grip, allowing the MDX to do some of the work for you.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 ACURA MDX

THE BASICS

Engine: 3.5-litre V6
Power: 290 horsepower, 267 pound-feet of torque
Transmission: Nine-speed automatic
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 12.2 city, 9 highway, 10.7 combined
Price: Starting at $53,690

LOVE IT

- Great handling
- Sharp looking
- Good safety technology

LEAVE IT

- Convoluted centre stack
- Infotainment system

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SiriusXM

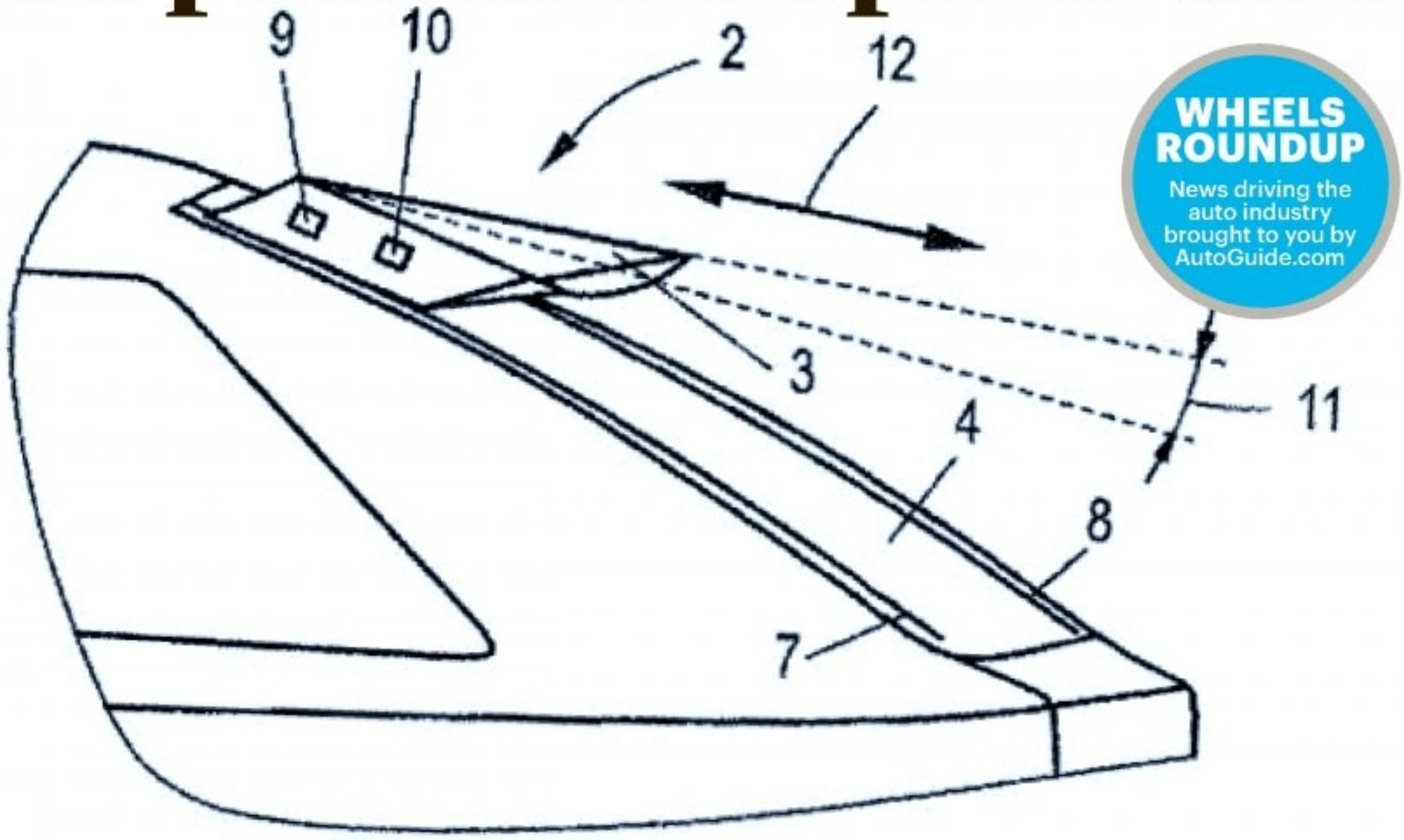
DODGE CARAVAN KIDS

Audi's new patent a real spoiler alert

AERODYNAMICS

Audi creates a sliding wing

Audi has filed a patent with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for a movable spoiler. Audi has designed this new system to improve aerodynamics on SUVs by eliminating "flow separation," a disturbance in airflow that increases drag which usually takes place about half way down the rear window. To fight this, the movable spoiler will lower at speeds over 80 km/h to the right height to combat this added drag. This allows the vehicle to keep its styling when travelling at low speeds, when the aerodynamic forces on the vehicle are negligible, and combat added drag once speed picks up. While active spoilers aren't new, this design is a new implementation of the idea, using two tracks on either side of the rear window to help the spoiler move up and down. STEPHEN ELMER/ AUTOGUIDE.COM



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2017 TLX SH-AWD® Elite model shown with accessories.
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THE 2017 TLX SH-AWD® STARTING FROM $42,875*

ILX
2017 ILX Tech model shown.
Lease the 2017 ILX from $158† bi-weekly | 1.9% 48-Month lease OR Receive up to a $3,500* Cash Rebate on other 2017 ILX models. Offer includes New Year Bonus.
THE 2017 ILX STARTING FROM $31,775*

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*Selling price is $42,875 // $50,375 // $31,775 // $37,175 on a new 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Base (UB3F3HU) // model shown, a 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Elite (UB3F7HKN) with accessories // new 2017 Acura ILX (DE2F3HUX) // model shown, a 2017 ILX Tech (DE2F7HKNX). Selling price includes $2,045 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF 6 liters ($1), air conditioning fee ($100) and OMVIC fee ($10). License, insurance, registration and taxes are extra. †Limited time lease offer based on a new 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Base (UB3F3HU) // model shown, a 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Elite (UB3F7HKN) with accessories // new 2017 Acura ILX (DE2F3HUX) // model shown, a 2017 ILX Tech (DE2F7HKNX) available through Acura Financial Services on approved credit. Representative lease example: 1.9% // 1.9% (2.66% effective APR) // 1.9% // 1.9% (2.88% effective APR) lease rate for 48 months (104 payments). Bi-weekly payment is $188 // $283 // $158 // $180 with $3,500 // $3,500 // $1,500 // $1,500 down payment. 16,000 km allowance/year; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. Total lease obligation is $23,052 // $32,932 // $17,932 // $20,220. Offer includes EHF tires ($29), EHF 6 liters ($1), air conditioning fee ($100), OMVIC fee ($10), and PPSA ($37). License, insurance, registration, options, duties and taxes are extra. PPSA lien registration fee and lien registering agent's fee are due at time of delivery. ‡$4,600 // $3,500 Cash Rebate (CCR) is available on new 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Tech (UB3F5HKN) and 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Elite (UB3F7HKN) // new 2017 Acura ILX Premium (DE2F7HUNX), Tech (DE2F7HKNX), and A-SPEC (DE2F8HKX) models when registered and delivered before January 31, 2017. Total incentives consist of: (i) $1,000 // $1,000 that cannot be combined with lease/finance offers; (ii) $2,500 // $2,000 that can be combined with lease/finance offers; (iii) $1,000 // $500 New Year Bonus that can be combined with lease/finance offers. All incentives will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes. ◊$1,000 // $850 // $500 New Year Bonus is available on all new 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Tech (UB3F5HKN) and 2017 TLX SH-AWD® Elite (UB3F7HKN) // new 2017 TLX L4 Base (UB1F3HLD) and TLX L4 Tech (UB1F5HKN) // new 2017 Acura ILX Premium (DE2F7HUNX), Tech (DE2F7HKNX), and A-SPEC (DE2F8HKX) models when registered and delivered before January 31, 2017. New Year Bonus can be combined with lease/finance offers and will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes. Some terms/conditions apply. Model shown for illustration purposes only. Offers end January 31, 2017 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last. Certain features only available on certain trims. Visit acura.ca or your Acura dealer for details. © 2017 Acura, a division of Honda Canada Inc.

FORD

Hybrid F-150, Mustang on way

A hybrid F-150 and Mustang have been rumoured for a while now, but Ford has officially confirmed the two vehicles are in the pipeline. Ford confirmed that it plans to release 13 global electric and hybrid vehicles in the next five years including a hybrid F-150 pickup truck, a hybrid Mustang, and a plug-in Transit van. Ford also confirmed that a mystery fully electric small SUV is coming by 2020. JODI LAI/AUTOGUIDE.COM

PORSCHE

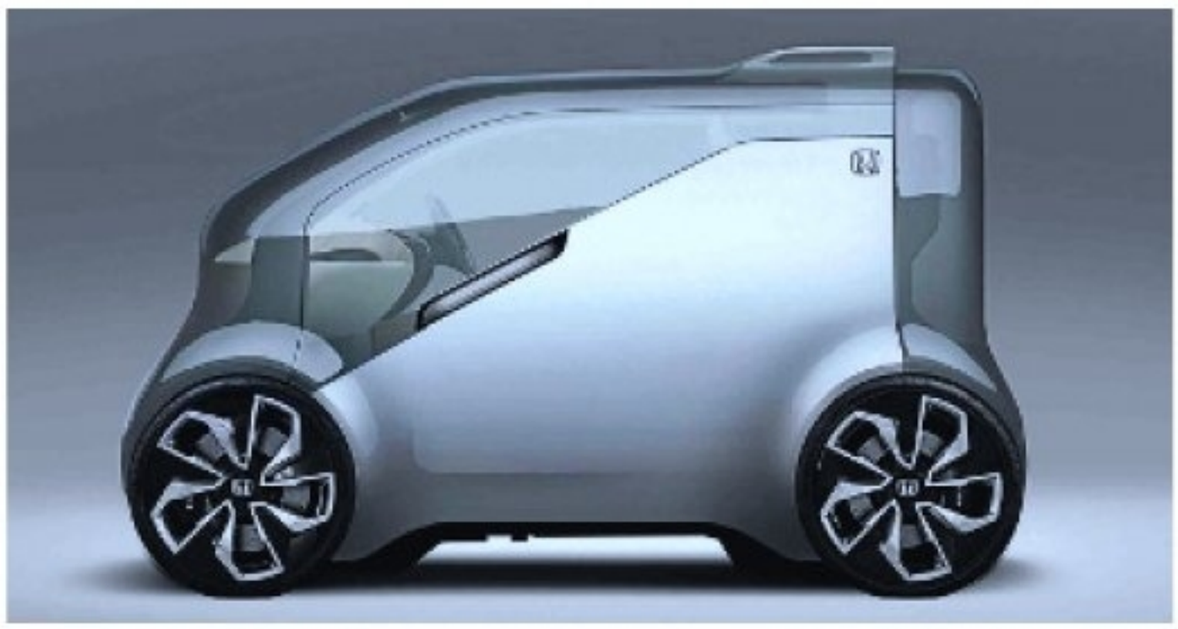
911 GTS models get turbo power

Porsche is launching five new 911 GTS models, including rear- and four-wheel drive versions of the Carrera and Carrera Cabriolet, bringing the 911 lineup to a staggering 25 variants. Joining the Carrera GTS models is a new Targa 4 GTS, rounding out a 911 lineup that now includes more than two dozen variations of Porsche's quintessential sports car. DAN ILIKA/AUTOGUIDE.COM

HONDA

NeuV Concept wants to make you money

Honda unveiled the NeuV Concept at the Consumer Electronics Show. The little car has a wild design that is mostly made up of a Plexiglas-type material rather than the usual sheet metal. This EV is designed with the idea that a car can make a driver some extra money while they're not using it. Honda envisions a ride sharing program where the car can autonomously pick up people needing a ride. SAMI HAJ-ASSAAD/AUTOGUIDE.COM



IN BRIEF

Subaru WRX gets a light refresh, still no hatch

The restyled front fascia comes to all 2018 WRX models, though the changes aren't exactly big. WRX Limited and STI models get further restyling thanks to new steering-responsive LED headlights. Power for the WRX remains at 268 horsepower from a 2.0-litre turbocharged boxer four-cylinder engine, with power still going to all four wheels. STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

Chevy Bolt named North American Car of the Year

The 2017 Chevy Bolt has been named the North American Car of the Year by a group of automotive journalists in the U.S. and Canada. The Bolt is Chevrolet's push to bring electric mobility to the masses "It is a game-changer that is not only a great electric vehicle; it's a great vehicle — period," said Mark Reuss, executive vice president, GM Global Product Development. STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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45 months	60 months	in protection credits

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metro SPORTS

"Maybe he flies under the radar but not in this room": Mark Barberio on Habs teammate Max Pacioretty who is still waiting for his all-star nod

All-star selection comes as no surprise to Matthews

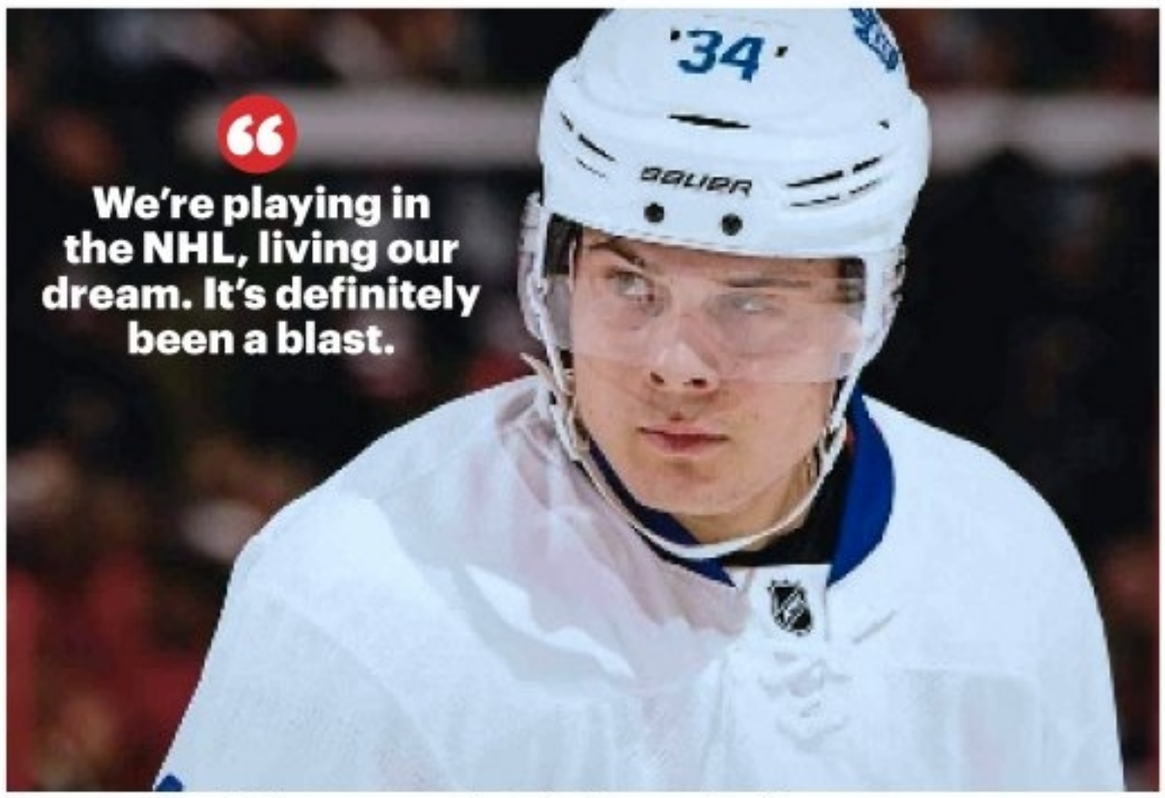
Dave Feschuk

Wendel Clark has been asked a lot about his rookie season as a Maple Leaf lately.

He's 50 years old now and his first year in Toronto lies 30 years in the rear view, another era altogether. But given the arrival of Toronto's rookies of the moment — the likes of Auston Matthews, Mitch Marner and William Nylander — Clark's name has been coming up a lot.

It came up again Tuesday, when Matthews was named as Toronto's lone representative for the NHL all-star game — which, to get particular, could turn into a couple of all-star games should Matthews and his Atlantic Division teammates advance through the semifinal match and reach the final, both of which, for the second straight year, will be played in a 3-on-3 format with two 10-minute halves.

Win or lose, Matthews, 19, will be the youngest Maple Leafs all-star since a rookie named Clark was Toronto's lone contribution to the old Campbell Conference team at the 1986 event. Win or lose, as a California-born, Arizona-raised sensation, Matthews figures to be the darling of all-star weekend in downtown Los Angeles, which begins with the Jan. 28 skills competition and wraps up with the Jan. 29 games.



Auston Matthews is the youngest Maple Leaf to be named an all-star.
JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

As of Tuesday, when Matthews took time out of the Leafs' five-day bye week to speak on a conference call from Florida, the all-star — Toronto's leading goal scorer (21) and point-getter (35) so far — was third in the league in goals per game, behind only Sidney Crosby and Jeff Carter. He was also 17th in the league in points per game. Oh, and he also ranked, in a toss-up with goaltender Frederik Andersen, as the biggest reason why the Leafs, who finished dead last a season ago, came into Tuesday with a 71 per cent chance of making the playoffs, according to the website SportsClubStats.com.

Has Matthews been surprised by all his early success?

"Honestly, not really," Matthews said. "I know what I'm capable of."

Save for that brief glimpse into an uber-confident competitive psyche that has so far proven bulletproof, Matthews was his usual humble self Tuesday. He called his all-star nod "a huge honour" and tossed around compliments to his teammates.

"We've leaned on each other a lot," Matthews said of Toronto's rookie group.

But is Matthews, who has played in each of Toronto's 39 games, in any danger of hitting the proverbial rookie wall?

The schedule, after all, is about to get tougher. The Leafs played their opening 39 games in 87 days. They'll play their remaining 43 games in 86 days. That's four more games jammed into a crunch of one less day. That's an extra week's worth of games inserted into their season's second half. And that's including the all-star break, which will be a break for every Leaf but Matthews.

Clark, who led the Maple Leafs in goals (34) and penalty minutes (227) in his rookie year, said he isn't expecting Matthews — or any of Toronto's other first-year players — to hit the wall.

"The easiest year in your career is your first year," Clark said in a recent interview. "You don't hit a rough patch in the NHL until your second, third year. As a rookie, you're so happy to be there. You're making a paycheque. You're finally at the level you dreamed of playing at. You're actually playing in the NHL. Every game, you're happy ... I was there. I lived it. It's your most fun year in the NHL."

Dave Feschuk is a sports columnist with the Toronto Star

NBA

DeRozan's 41 points lift Raps over Celts

DeMar DeRozan scored 41 points and Jonas Valanciunas added 18 points and 23 rebounds as the Toronto Raptors came back for a 114-106 win over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night at Air Canada Centre.

The win ended a two-game slide and prevented Boston (23-15) from pulling even with the first-place Raptors (25-13) in the Atlantic Division standings.

Toronto trailed by 16 points midway through the third quarter but DeRozan helped bring the Raptors back into the game in the fourth. He scored six straight points before Kyle Lowry hit a three-pointer with 2:41 left to give Toronto a 104-102 lead.

TUESDAY At ACC

114	106
RAPTORS	CELTICS

An Isaiah Thomas layup pulled Boston even but DeRozan hit a pair of clutch jumpers down the stretch as Toronto scored eight straight points to pull away.

Thomas led the Celtics with 27 points while Al Horford had 14 points and nine rebounds.

DeRozan also had 13 rebounds while Kyle Lowry added 24 points for Toronto, which ended Boston's four-game winning streak. THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC

Rousey ends silence from 'rock bottom'

Former UFC champ Ronda Rousey is turning to Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling for inspiration more than a week after getting humiliated in a comeback match against Amanda Nunes.

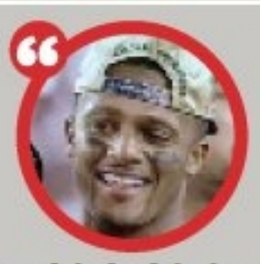
The fight at UFC 207 was halted just 48 seconds in after Rousey was pummelled by the women's bantamweight champion. Rousey didn't talk to reporters afterward.

On Monday, Rousey posted a quote from Rowling on Instagram, "And so rock bottom became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life."

Ronda Rousey
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rousey's Dec. 30 matchup with Nunes was her first fight since losing the UFC women's bantamweight title to Holly Holm at UFC 193 in 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NCAA FOOTBALL



You think this is the best of Clemson? Just wait the next five years.

Clemson QB Deshaun Watson after his team's comeback win over Alabama in the national championship

NFL PLAYOFFS

Pats favoured to beat Texans by 16

Before this weekend, just five NFL playoff games since 1966 have featured a team favoured by at least 15 points. Just one of those underdogs won the game (Google "Joe Namath" for more information on that).

There is nothing easy about this game for our offence.

Tom Brady

Oddsmakers don't think Brock Osweiler should guarantee the 16-point underdog Houston Texans (10-7) can beat Tom Brady and the Patriots (14-2) in New England. In fact, even if Brady were not playing, the Patriots would be favoured by nearly two touchdowns.

The Patriots beat the Texans 27-0 in Week 3 with third-string quarterback Jacoby Brissett leading the way. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors centre Lucas Nogueira rejects Celtics forward Jonas Jerebko at the basket on Tuesday night.
STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FIFA to expand World Cup to 48 teams

SOCCER

Infantino's plan approved and start date for format is 2026

FIFA will expand the World Cup to 48 teams, adding 16 extra nations to the 2026 tournament which is likely to be held in North America.

President Gianni Infantino's favoured plan — for 16 three-team groups with the top two advancing to a round of 32 — was unanimously approved Tuesday by the FIFA Council.

It meets Infantino's election pledge of a bigger and more inclusive World Cup going beyond European and South American teams, which have won all 20 titles. "We have to shape the football World Cup of the 21st century," said Infantino, who also promised funding increases for FIFA's 211 member federations at his election last February.

With 80 matches instead of 64, FIFA forecasts the equivalent of $1 billion extra income at current rates from broadcasting and sponsor deals, plus ticket sales, compared to $5.5 billion revenue forecast for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

FIFA projects an increased profit of $640 million despite some extra operating costs and prize money for teams.

FIFA's six continents should find out by May how many extra places they will each get.

"No guarantees have been made," Infantino said. "The only sure thing is that obviously with 48 teams everyone will have a bit more than they have today."

UEFA wants 16 European teams at the tournament, which is strongly favoured to be played in North America. The CONCACAF region has not hosted the World Cup since the 1994 tournament in the United States.

80

The expansion will increase the number of matches from 64 to 80.

American, Canadian and Mexican soccer leaders have had informal talks about a co-hosting bid. FIFA members are scheduled to pick the host in May 2020, though there could be little competition in a process Infantino said must be "bullet-proof" to meet all integrity rules.

Africa and Asia could be winners in a bigger World Cup with up to nine places each. They had only five and four teams, respectively, at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Still, FIFA said it expects the standard of soccer to drop compared to the 32-team format locked in for the next two World Cups in Russia and Qatar.

The "absolute quality" of play, defined by high-ranked teams facing each other most often, is achieved by 32 teams, FIFA acknowledged in a research document sent to members last month. It made 10,000 tournament simulations to reach that conclusion.

Instead, Infantino wants to create fervour and months of anticipation back home in the 16 extra nations which would qualify, some probably making their World Cup debut. FIFA has pointed to Costa Rica, Wales and Iceland as examples of teams which overachieved at recent tournaments.

FIFA must break with soccer tradition to make its new format work after an original 48-team plan — with an opening play-off round sending 16 "one-and-done" teams home early — was unpopular. Instead, three-team groups will replace the usual groups of four to create simple progress to a knockout bracket.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gianni Infantino
MICHAEL BUHOLZER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

SOCCER IN BRIEF

Atletico into Copa quarters
Antoine Griezmann scored a goal the day after receiving an award as the world's third-best player, helping Atletico Madrid reach the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey despite a 3-2 home loss to Las Palmas on Tuesday.

Atletico defended a 2-0 first-leg win and advance 4-3 on aggregate at the Vicente Calderon Stadium.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Advantage United in semis
Manchester United closed in on the final of the English League Cup by beating injury-hit Hull 2-0 in the first leg of their semifinal thanks to second-half goals by Juan Mata and Marouane Fellaini on Tuesday.

It was United's ninth straight win in all competitions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Yourdailycrosswordand Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

2	3	8	1	9	6	5	7	4
4	7	9	3	2	5	8	1	6
6	1	5	8	7	4	3	2	9
9	2	6	5	1	7	4	8	3
8	4	1	9	3	2	6	5	7
3	5	7	4	6	8	2	9	1
1	6	3	2	8	9	7	4	5
7	8	4	6	5	1	9	3	2
5	9	2	7	4	3	1	6	8

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Crunchy Cauliflower Tacos

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

A light coating of bread crumbs give these veggie tacos an addictive crunch.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 head cauliflower
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 1/2 cup panko or bread crumbs
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1/2 tsp cumin
- salt and pepper
- 1 avocado
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 lime, juiced
- salt and pepper
- 6 to 8 tortillas
- extras like crumbled queso or feta cheese, cabbage slaw

Directions

1. Chop cauliflower into florets. In large bowl, toss with olive oil.

2. On a large, flat plate mix panko, spices and a bit of salt and pepper. Toss florets in mix until coated. Spread on a baking sheet and pop in oven 25 to 30 minutes, until cauliiflower is golden and tender.

3. Meanwhile, combine avocado with sour cream and lime juice. Mash with fork and combine until smooth. Taste and add salt and pepper.

4. Prep all of your extras and warm up the tortillas. Spread a good dollop of avocado on each tortillas. Place a handful of the baked cauli on top, then load on your toppings.

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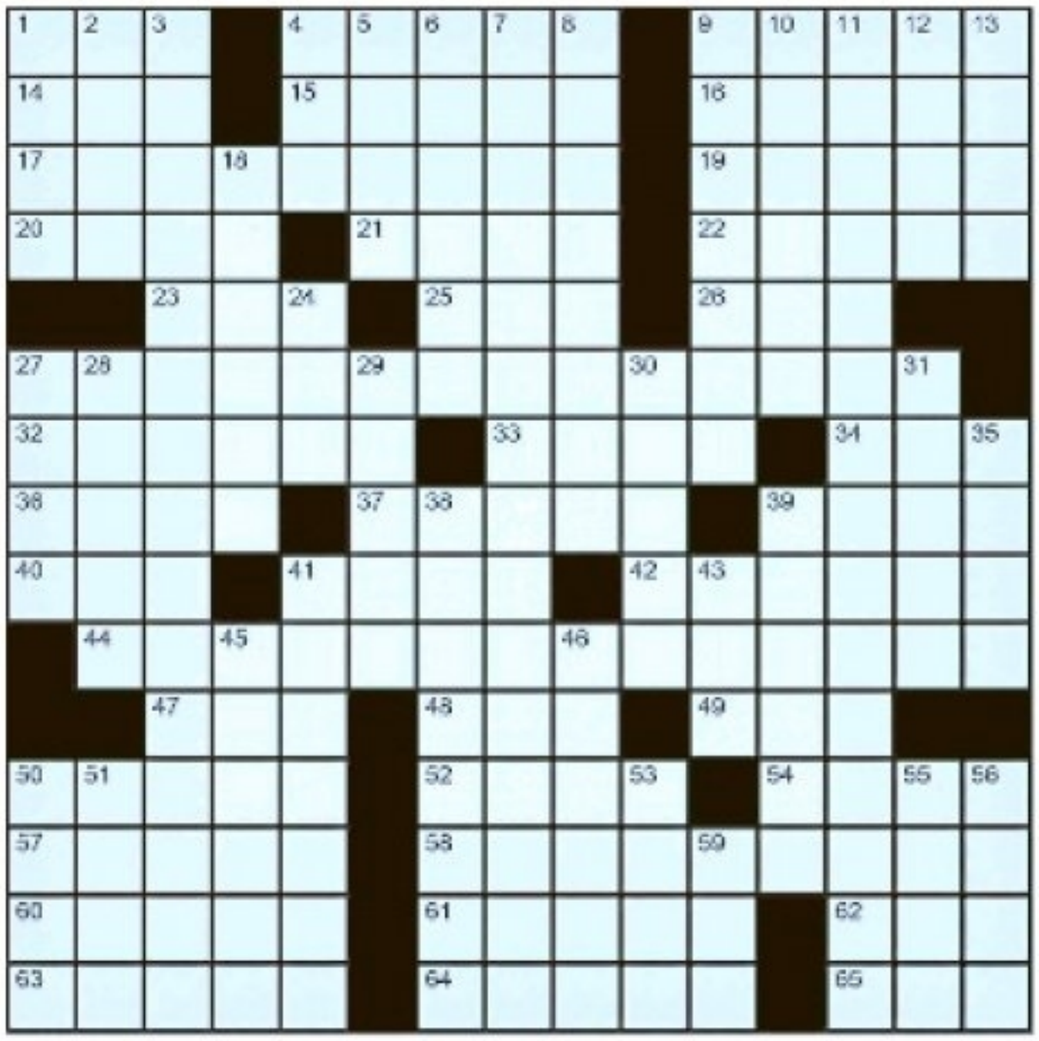
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Spa mask material
4. Olympic award
9. Sprays
14. "Take __, _ insist."
15. Andrea __ (Ill-fated ocean liner)
16. Mult., div. subj.
17. Refuge
19. 6/49, e.g.
20. Cabbage: French
21. Pet rights org.
22. "Party Rock Anthem" duo
23. Initials-sharers of The Miracles' lead singer
25. Suffix with 'Jacob'
26. War on Poverty agcy.
27. TV channel, with The, that gives coast-to-coast forecasts: 2 wds.
32. Archie and Edith's street on "All in the Family"
33. Many a moon
34. Jackie O's hubby
36. Macy Gray hit: 2 wds.
37. Hilly range
39. Accelerated
40. Sea: French
41. Baseball star Sammy
42. Rita Hayworth's 1953 title biblical role
44. '__ Authorized Personnel Only' (Warning on the door of a secretive facility)
47. Cow sound
48. "__ for two and me..."
49. Mel of baseball
50. Hilary of "Amelia" (2009)
52. Close-fitting
54. Ancient love god
57. Thomas __ (American colonial pamphleteer)
58. Wedding party member
60. __ ear
61. Brother, in Brossard
62. The Young Rascals tune: "How Can __ Sure"
63. Arboreal architectures
64. Uncanny
65. Mr. Pennington and Mr. Cobb

DOWN
1. Assorted [abbr.]
2. Salt Lake City's site
3. Drumheller discoveries: 2 wds.
4. Summer hrs. in Alberta
5. 'Right' suffix
6. "Mad Men" character Don
7. Big sports/concert venue in Toronto: 3 wds.
8. Birth a before-being-a-baby bird: 3 wds.
9. "Harry Potter and the Deathly _: Part 1" (2010)
10. "__..." (Start of Juliet's famous line)
11. Do motionless modelling for the painter: 4 wds.
12. Beyonce's "Cadillac Records" (2008) role
13. "Vamoose!"
18. Respectful gesture when meeting The Queen
24. Talking Heads song: "And __ Was"
27. Lark
28. Dinner deleter
29. Boo-boo
30. Dita Von __ (Queen of Burlesque)
31. Krispy __ Doughnuts
35. Notion
38. "Has testing been done on this product?": 3 wds.
39. Scheduled
41. Irish writer Bram's family
43. Hubbub
45. Shakespearean verse
46. Stretched more tightly
50. Michael J. Fox show, "__ City"
51. Lessen
53. British songstress Ms. Halliwell
55. Dionne Warwick's "Walk __"
56. Fr. women-with-halos
59. Born, in biographies

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today you're not afraid to dream big! You're entertaining big plans for your future, and you might make big proposals to bosses, parents and VIPs.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You're excited about travel plans -- and we're talking big travel plans! Likewise, some of you have big ideas about higher education, publishing and the media.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You feel confident during discussions about inheritances and shared property today, which is why you definitely will steer things the way you want them to go.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Relations with partners and close friends are intense today. Everything seems to be bigger than life. Your wants are important, and so are the wants of someone else.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You are busy at work today because you want to accomplish so much. Plus, you have high standards for yourself and others. "Shoot for the moon!"

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a playful, romantic and funloving day! Make plans to socialize with others. Enjoy sports events, fun activities with children and schmoozing with friends.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your interactions with a parent or a family member will be strong today. You know what you want, and this person knows what he or she wants. Surely you can meet somewhere in the middle.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a busy day! Be careful that you don't overbook short trips, appointments, errands and talking to everyone. Plus, there's all that reading and writing you have to do. Gasp!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Today you're focused on money and cash flow. Caution: Do not go overboard or be overly confident.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel empowered today because the Sun is in your sign, getting a boost from lucky Jupiter. Use today to go after what you want. You likely will get it.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will be effective working alone or behind the scenes today. Sometimes that's actually the most powerful place to be.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a popular day for you! Enjoy hanging out with others, and also enjoy professional associations with colleagues or people in clubs and groups. Don't hesitate to speak up.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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- Cambridge Centre

COBOURG
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DUNDAS
- 101 Osler Dr.

ETOBICOKE
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- Cloverdale Mall
- Sherway Gardens
- Woodbine Centre

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- 330 Guelph St.

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- Stone Road Mall

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- 1289 Upper James St.
- Eastgate Square
- Jackson Square
- Lime Ridge Mall

MAPLE
- Rutherford Market Place

MARKHAM
- 7357 Woodbine Ave.
- Markville Shopping Centre
- Pacific Mall

MILTON
- 377 Main St. E.

MISSISSAUGA
- 980 Eglinton Ave. E.
- Creekside Crossing
- Dixie Value Mall
- Erin Mills Town Centre
- Heartland Power Centre
- Sheridan Centre
- SmartCentres Westgate
- Square One Shopping Centre

NEWMARKET
- Upper Canada Mall

NORTH YORK
- Bayview Village
- Centerpoint Mall
- Crossroads Plaza
- Fairview Mall
- Lawrence Square
- North York Sheridan Mall
- Shops at Don Mills

OAKVILLE
- 478 Dundas St. W.
- Oakville Place

OSHAWA
- Oshawa Centre
- Oshawa Sobeys Plaza

PICKERING
- Pickering Town Centre

RICHMOND HILL
- Hillcrest Mall

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- 259 Morningside Ave.
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- College Park
- Dufferin Mall
- East York Town Centre
- Gerrard Square
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